

Remarks/Arguments

The claim amendments are supported by the specification, for example at page 6, third full paragraph.

The status identifier for claims 15 and 16 is corrected.

Claims 2-4 and 6-9 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Hunter et al in view of Altmann et al and Cecil's Textbook of Medicine (hereinafter "Cecil's"). Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection for the reasons that follow.

Applicant believes that the most relevant portions of Hunter et al disclose polymeric pharmaceutical compositions that provide for prolonged, local delivery of an antiangiogenic agent. The reference teaches that such polymeric pharmaceutical compositions are used for things like blocking an artery in embolization therapy, meshes which release drug after surgical resection and for stents to open blocked ducts.

The Examiner cites page 11, paragraph 0130, of Hunter et al which suggests that parathyroid adenomas could be treated by catheter embolization with the disclosed polymeric compositions. It is clear from Hunter et al that the presence of the antiangiogenic agent in the polymeric composition used to block the artery may improve the effect of the embolization by preventing the growth of new blood vessels which could by-pass the blockage. However, the treatment described by Hunter et al is the blocking of the artery to cut the blood supply, not the administration of an antiangiogenic compound.

The present claims make clear that the administration of epothilone B is not in a slow dissolving polymer used for catheter embolization by using the transition "consists essentially of" and by specifying the dose and frequency of administration of the epothilone B. Therefore, Applicant submits that the claims here presented are patentable over the combination of references. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

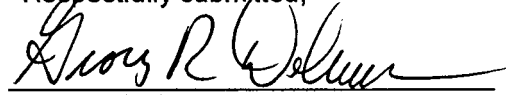
Claims 10-12 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Hunter et al in view of Altmann et al and Cecil's. Applicant submits that these are patentable over the combined disclosure of the references for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claims 2-4 and 6-9. Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is also requested.

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George R. Dohmann", written over a horizontal line.

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